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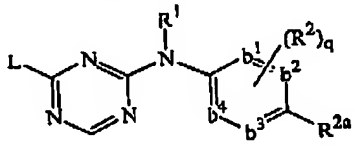
PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A compound of formula



(I-a)

or a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, wherein

$-b^1=b^2-C(R^{2a})=b^3-b^4=$ represents a bivalent radical of formula

$-CH=CH-C(R^{2a})=CH-CH=$ (b-1);

$-N=CH-C(R^{2a})=CH-CH=$ (b-2);

$-CH=N-C(R^{2a})=CH-CH=$ (b-3);

$-N=CH-C(R^{2a})=N-CH=$ (b-4);

$-N=CH-C(R^{2a})=CH-N=$ (b-5);

$-CH=N-C(R^{2a})=N-CH=$ (b-6); or

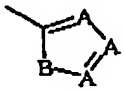
$-N=N-C(R^{2a})=CH-CH=$ (b-7);

q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^1 is hydrogen, aryl, formyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with formyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl, or C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl;

R^{2a} is cyano; aminocarbonyl; mono- or di(methyl)aminocarbonyl; C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with cyano, aminocarbonyl or mono- or di(methyl)aminocarbonyl; C_{2-6}alkenyl substituted with cyano; or C_{2-6}alkynyl substituted with cyano;

each R^2 independently is hydroxy, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with cyano or $-C(=O)R^4$, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or cyano, C_{2-6}alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or cyano, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, cyano, nitro, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, polyhalomethyl, polyhalomethyloxy, polyhalomethylthio, $-S(=O)_pR^4$, $-NH-S(=O)_pR^4$, $-C(=O)R^4$, $-NHC(=O)H$, $-C(=O)NHNH_2$, $-NHC(=O)R^4$, $-C(=NH)R^4$ or a radical of formula


(c)

wherein each A independently is N, CH or CR^4;

B is NH, O, S or NR^4;

p is 1 or 2; and

R^4 is methyl, amino, mono- or dimethylamino or polyhalomethyl;

L is C_{4-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, or C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, whereby each of said aliphatic groups is optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from

(i) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,

(ii) indolyl or isoindolyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, three or four substituents each independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, cyano, aminocarbonyl, nitro, amino, polyhalomethyl, polyhalomethyloxy or C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl,

(iii) phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl, wherein each of said aromatic rings is optionally substituted with one, two, three, four or five substituents each independently selected from the substituents defined in R^2; or

L is -X-R^3 wherein

R^3 is phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl, wherein each of said aromatic rings is optionally substituted with two, three, four or five substituents each independently selected from the substituents defined in R^2; and

X is -NR^1-, -NH-NH-, -N=N-, -O-, -C(=O)-, -CHOH-, -S-, -S(=O)- or -$S(=O)_2$-;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with one, two, three, four or five substituents each independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, cyano, nitro, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl or polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyloxy.

15. (previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 14 wherein L is -X-R^3, -X- is -O- or -NH- and R^3 is phenyl substituted with two or three substituents each independently selected from chloro, bromo, cyano or methyl.

16. (previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 14 wherein R^{2a} is cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(methyl)aminocarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with cyano, aminocarbonyl or mono- or di(methyl)aminocarbonyl.

17. (previously presented) A method of treating a subject suffering from Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14 to said subject.

18. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of compound as claimed in claim 14.

19. (previously presented) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 18 comprising mixing a therapeutically effective amount of said compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (previously presented) The combination of a compound as defined in claim 14 and another antiretroviral compound.

21. (canceled).

22. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as active ingredients (a) a compound as defined in claim 14, and (b) another antiretroviral compound.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of another antiretroviral compound to said subject.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said compound of claim 14 and the other antiretroviral compound are administered simultaneously, separately, or sequentially to said subject.